ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

With reference to one or more pieces of data (for example, the data at the left end in a block of 4 X 4 pixels) in a data string constituting one code vector in a code book, a code vector is generated by giving a value which increases in an increment of a predetermined value from the reference data value K to each piece of the other data in the block. A greatly versatile code book can be made at least for data on a pattern, for example, a face image, whose data value gradually varies by a small change.